



Ernie W. Sadau
President and Chief Executive Officer

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregg Harper
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Request for Information regarding the availability of sexual assault forensic exams and sexual assault nurse examiners at CHRISTUS Spohn Health System hospitals

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

I am writing in response to your inquiry dated March 13, 2018, which requested information regarding the availability of sexual assault forensic exams and sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) at CHRISTUS Spohn Health System hospitals. CHRISTUS Spohn Health System is comprised of the following six-hospital locations:

- Memorial (Corpus Christi, TX)
- Shoreline (Corpus Christi, TX)
- South (Corpus Christi, TX)
- Beeville (Beeville, TX)
- Kleberg (Kingsville, TX)
- Alice (Alice, TX)

The responses noted below are representative of each facility.

1. Does CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital employ SANEs or SAFE-certified medical professionals?

Response: CHRISTUS Spohn Health System does not have a SANE/SAFE program.

2. If CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital does employ SANEs,

***a.* When did CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital begin employing SANEs?**

Response: Not applicable.

***b.* How many SANE or SAFEs does CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital employ?**

Response: Not applicable.

c. How were SANEs trained?

Response: Not applicable.

d. During what days and hours are SANEs available at CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital?

Response: Not applicable.

e. Is the CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital listed on the IAFN database?

Response: No.

f. What is the annual cost of administering the SANE program at CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital? Please explain what is covered by this cost, such as the cost of SANE training, SANE salaries, and victim services. Please provide the cost for 2017, 2016, and 2015.

Response: Not applicable.

g. What grants, if any, has CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital applied for or accepted to fund any programs related to the training of SANEs or treatment of sexual assault victims?

Response: CHRISTUS Spohn has not applied for, nor received any funds related to SANE training or treatment of sexual assault victims.

3. If CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital does not employ SANEs, does the CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital provide rape kits by non-SANEs?

Response: It is the policy of the CHRISTUS Spohn Health System that all patients presenting or identified as victims of sexual assault will receive care in accordance with the hospital's capabilities. Specifically, medical staff will seek to stabilize the patient for transportation to the nearest forensic site for the evidentiary examination. There have been rare occasions when a rape kit was performed at a CHRISTUS Spohn facility; for example, when the patient did not give consent to be transported to another facility, or the patient required other trauma-related services that prevented transport.

a. If so, who conducts those kits?

Response: In the rare instances noted above, the exam was performed by a medical doctor.

b. How are these medical professionals trained to collect those kits?

Response: The performing medical doctor follows the *Texas Evidence Collection Protocol*. As noted in its preamble, the protocol provides “recommendations to medical, legal, law enforcement, advocacy and forensic science professionals on the identification, collection and preservation of physical evidence and the minimization of physical and psychological trauma to the victims/survivors of sexual assault and requirements of ECP kits as designated by Chapter 420, Government Code”.

4. If a sexual assault victim comes to the CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital requesting treatment and/or a rape kit following an assault, what procedures are in place at CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital to treat that victim? If CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital does not conduct a rape kit, SAFE certified or not, please include whether CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital has a relationship or agreement with another facility that does provide those services.

Response: In accordance with our hospital policy, adults and children will have a medical screening exam and stabilization of emergent conditions. Once a patient is stabilized, adult patients will be transferred to the [REDACTED], and children will be transferred to [REDACTED] for a SANE Exam.

As noted in 3b above, in the event the patient refuses transport, a medical doctor may perform the sexual assault evidentiary exam.

5. Does CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital track any data on sexual assault, such as the number of sexual assault victims treated each year, how many rape kits are requested, and how many rape kits are completed?

Response: No, this information is not tracked.

CHRISTUS Health appreciates the Committee’s interest in these issues and welcomes the opportunity to provide related information. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Ernie W. Sadau
President & Chief Executive Officer
CHRISTUS Health